

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Please add new claims 26-29 as follows:

Listing of claims:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for extracting a fermentation product selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, benzaldehyde, a catechol, benzylalcohol, cinnamic acid, phenol, and mixtures thereof, from a fermentation liquid comprising:

(i) conducting a fermentation using a biocatalyst to form a fermentation product in a fermentation liquid;

(ii) contacting the fermentation liquid with a solvent-impregnated porous carrier, wherein the solvent-impregnated porous carrier has a density different from the fermentation liquid and the fermentation product is sorbed by the solvent-impregnated carrier; and

(iii) separating the fermentation product from the solvent-impregnated porous carrier, wherein the fermentation product is selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, benzaldehyde, a catechol, benzylalcohol, cinnamic acid, phenol, and mixtures thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the separation is carried out by steam stripping, back-extraction, heating, or combinations thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the solvent-impregnated porous carrier in step (iii) is recycled through to step (ii).

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein said solvent impregnated carrier comprises a polymeric carrier.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein said polymeric carrier comprises one or more polystyrene, polypropylene, polytetrafluoroethylene, silicone, polyethylene, or regenerated cellulose group.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein said polymeric carrier is crosslinked.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein said solvent impregnated carrier comprises an inorganic carrier, preferably selected from silica, alumina, aluminosilicates, and combinations thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein said fermentation product is 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, benzylalcohol, 3-methylcatechol, benzaldehyde, cinnamic acid, or α -mixtures thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein said biocatalyst is selected from *Pseudomonas putida*, *Escherichia coli*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Lactobacillus* species, or *Aspergillus niger*.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein

- said solvent impregnated carrier is inserted at or near the bottom of a fermentor containing said fermentation liquid and is collected at or near the top of said fermentor, wherein said solvent impregnated carrier has a density that is lower than that of said fermentation liquid; or
- said solvent impregnated carrier is inserted at or near the top of a fermentor containing said fermentation liquid and is collected at or near the bottom of said fermentor, wherein

said solvent impregnated carrier has a density that is higher than that of said fermentation liquid.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, which is carried out continuously.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein said porous solvent impregnated carrier has an average pore diameter of from 2.5 nm to 50 μ m.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the porosity is from 30 to 80%.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the catechol is 3-methylcatechol.

26. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the fermentation product is a phenol.

27. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein said biocatalyst is *Pseudomonas putida*.

28. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said polymeric carrier comprises a polystyrene.

29. (New) A method according to claim 12, wherein the separation is carried out by steam stripping.